

ALL-MEN UNDER 31 WANTED FOR THE ARMY—Official

# The Daily Mirror

CERTIFIED CIRCULATION LARGER THAN THAT OF ANY OTHER DAILY PICTURE PAPER

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One Halfpenny.

THE HEROIC CHEMIST WHO TRIED TO AVERT THE GREAT  
MUNITIONS DISASTER IN EAST LONDON.



Mrs. Angel, who was lady superintendent at the wrecked factory.



Mr. Angel, M.A., B.Sc. He was Science Lecturer and Dickson Research Scholar at Oxford University.



Miss Heather Grace Angel, aged seven, in fancy costume and—



—Her sister Marion Muriel, aged nine. They are the daughters of the late Mr. Angel and Mrs. Angel.

To-day we publish a special interview with Mrs. Angel, the wife of Mr. Andrea Angel, the heroic chemist who attempted to combat the fire which preceded the great explosion at the East London munition factory. Though he could have escaped himself he stayed behind doing his utmost to stay the progress of the flames well knowing that he might

be killed at any moment. On hearing the news of the disaster Mrs. Angel hurried to the factory, and, although unable to obtain news of her husband's fate, helped to tend the women and children who had survived. She continued this work until well into next morning, even after learning of the fate of her husband.



# HERO OF GREAT EXPLOSION: WIDOW'S MOVING STORY

How Mr. Angel Died Trying to Save Others  
—“Always Thought of Himself Last.”

## GRIM SUNDAY SEARCH FOR THE DEAD.

Mr. Lloyd George Visits Stricken District—Stories of Escapes and Tragedies—Search Parties Still at Work.

There was only one topic of conversation in London yesterday—the great munitions explosion.

Thousands of anxious people gathered outside the devastated area, many of them inquiring for friends and relatives. But no one without a special permit was allowed to pass the cordon of police that guarded all the approaches.

To-day we publish an exclusive interview with Mrs. Angel, wife of the heroic chief chemist at the munitions factory, who sacrificed his life in an effort to overcome the fire. Mrs. Angel states that her husband always thought of himself last.

The official details of the disaster, as issued by the Minister of Munitions, are:—

Up to the present (Saturday evening) between 30 and 40 bodies have been recovered and about 100 persons are reported to be seriously injured. A fire started at a factory in the East of London, near the river, which was employed on refining explosives.

The resultant explosion involved practically all the explosives in the factory, which was destroyed.

Fires were caused in neighbouring warehouses and factories, one of the largest of which was an important flour mill.

Three rows of small houses in the immediate neighbourhood were practically demolished, and considerable damage was occasioned to other property.

The chief chemist of the factory, Mr. Angel, and a number of other workpeople, were killed by the explosion.

The casualties, owing to the warning which people had by the outbreak of fire, are not nearly so heavy as was anticipated.

The official message mentions that the King has made repeated inquiries as to the extent of the damage and loss of life, and has expressed his solicitude for the victims and their families.

## IRON BOMBARDMENT.

Ten-Ton Masses of Metal Hurlled About Like Feathers.

### NIGHT OF FLAMING DEATH.

A vivid account of the disaster is given by a Press representative, who writes:—

The night was very dark. In the munitions factory the evening shift had commenced their duties. Without warning a fire broke out—the exact place is not ascertained, though one account mentions a mixing shop. Another says that chemicals caught alight.

Inside the factory the awful peril was at once realised. As the flames extended the agony of mind of the officials must have been terrible, for they could see the inevitable doom awaiting everybody.

Suddenly the explosion came. The earth rocked. A tornado of flame swept through the air, bearing with it, as if feathers, huge girders

### NO EFFECT ON MUNITION SUPPLY.

The accident will make no practical difference to the output of munitions.—Dr. Addison, Minister of Munitions.

and large fragments of iron and steel weighing anything from 50wt. to 100wt.

A miscellaneous hail descended on a far-flung area already devastated by the concussion.

Roofs were stripped off like cardboard, cottages collapsed like packs of cards, walls gave way or bulged, ceilings fell, windows shattered and house fronts were torn out.

Immense pieces of steel struck a neighbouring gasometer, which reeled as the tearing explosion dashed against it. It remained intact, but some of the gas escaped until the district reeked of it.

Then it ignited and flared up, another ascending shaft of incandescent light.

### NIGHT OF TERROR.

A second and lesser explosion came from the factory, which was entirely razed.

A night of terror ensued. Death and destruction had been dealt out in all directions.

Outside the munitions factory the solitary fire engine was twisted and bent as if some Titan had seized it in a monster grip. Two of the firemen were dead.

Screams from women pierced the air; masonry was falling everywhere (although the iron bombardment had happily ceased); moans of the victims could be heard on every hand; men and women were rushing to and fro distractedly; and the fire was picking up building after building in its path.

Dead, dying and injured were lying everywhere—some in the street, others held down by wreckage. To the rescuers it was a problem to know where and how to begin.

The series of fires was embraced in a semi-circle. At midnight the sky was as lurid as ever, great tongues of flame licking upwards. Building after building toppled.

## DRAMA OF TWO HOMES

Fate Plays Strange Pranks—Child as Sole Survivor.

### MOTHER'S LOST BABES.

Amid the whirlpool of death and disaster two incidents stand out in dramatic contrast.

In one case a tiny child picked out from beneath a heap of ruins was the sole survivor of a family of six children.

In another home a husband, wife and children rushed into the street unhurt—a moment later their house collapsed like a bundle of sticks.

**Woman's Agonising Ordeal.**—“In one hospital I visited,” writes a correspondent, “every available inch of space was occupied. One woman of the working class, her face drawn with agony, her eyes tearless, had come to

### A HOME ROLL OF HONOUR.

“You will, I am sure, agree with me that there ought to be a home roll of honour for those who in the country have died for the country.”—The Archdeacon of London at St. Paul's yesterday.

inquire for her two little girls, aged five and seven respectively.

“They had gone on an errand for her and had not returned.”

The mother described the children's clothing. She identified the tattered little frocks.

Gently the matron placed her arms around the woman's waist, whispered something to her, and led her to a seat.

Then the tears blinded her eyes. “My God,” she gasped, “all gone.”

“Later it was learned that the woman's husband had died on the western battlefield, and the news of his death was only received that same morning.”

**Home That Had Vanished.**—“A youth, a worker in the City, returned home shortly after seven to find his parents' house had vanished in the great upheaval. He went to a hospital, and there he identified the unconscious form of his mother, who is not expected to recover. In the mortuary he saw the bodies of his father and sister.”

## RUSH OF SUNDAY CROWDS.

There was an exodus from London yesterday towards the scene of the great munitions explosion.

The devastated area, however, was closely guarded by strongly drawn lines of police, and no one without a permit was allowed beyond the cordon.

Many occupiers of houses which overlooked the scene of the disaster permitted numbers of people to pass through their premises and view the ruins from a distance on payment of a small fee. A cricket ground formed a coign of vantage and admission was gained with a few coppers.

The mayor of a neighbouring borough has organised an emergency committee to assist the homeless. The secretary of the committee said: “I heard of one terrible case of a woman with five children who were killed, whilst the father, who was employed in the factory, was killed, too—the whole family wiped out.”

“Another woman burst into her home. All she could say was: ‘I crawled through a hole—I crawled through a hole.’ Her front teeth were blown out and her hair was burnt right off.”

Among the workers at this centre are Lady Lawley and Lady Muriel Paget.

### PREMIER'S VISIT.

Mr. Lloyd George, who was accompanied by Mrs. Lloyd George and some members of his family, yesterday visited the scene of the catastrophe.

The Prime Minister was shown the remains of the chemical factory and the other buildings involved, and was greatly touched by the sight of the wrecked homes of the former residents in the vicinity.

## HERO WHO GAVE HIS LIFE FOR OTHERS.

Widow Tells of Her Husband's Noble End.

### NO THOUGHT OF SELF.

Another name has been added to the long roll of England's heroes.

It is that of Andrea Angel (not doctor, as reported), the brave chemist, who whilst advising the operatives to seek safety stayed heroically at his post.

Mrs. Angel, the widow of the dead hero, who has herself been working since Christmas as lady superintendent at the factory where the explosion occurred, gave some details to *The Daily Mirror* yesterday.

“I was at home at about seven o'clock on Friday evening,” she said, “when I heard the sound of a terrific explosion.

“In consequence I did not leave the house at once.

“It was not till about twelve o'clock at night that, accompanied by my sister, Miss Peggy Stock, I arrived at the scene of the explosion.

“I cannot tell you what I saw. It was indescribable. Everything was blazing.

### RAN TO THE HOSPITALS.

“When I got there I could not find a single soul that I knew.

“I ran round to the hospitals in the hope of hearing some news of my husband. I did not know whether he were dead or alive. Nothing could be found of him.”

At this point two bright-faced children with sparkling eyes and long, carefully-brushed hair, entered the room. They were Marion Muriel, aged nine, and Heather Grace, aged seven, the two daughters of Mrs. Angel.

“They are proud of what their father has done,” said their mother.

Asked for some details of the late Mr. Angel's career, Mrs. Angel informed *The Daily Mirror* that he was born in January, 1877.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Angel, of Glan-y-Mor, Penally, South Wales, he received his early education at Exeter School, where he obtained an Oxford scholarship.

### SELFLESS BRAVERY.

Entering Christ Church College, he took first-class honours in science. He became a Bachelor of Science, a science tutor, and Dickson research scholar.

Until the outbreak of the war he remained in Oxford. Then, after seeing his pupils through their finals, he placed his services at the disposal of his country.

“I have never known him think of himself,” she concluded.

That is the epitaph of a great-hearted gentleman whose memory Britain will revere as one of the heroes of the war.

### HEROISM AMID FIRE.

Mr. Angel's action (writes a *Daily Mirror* representative) was equivalent to any deed performed on the field of battle.

His first act when he heard of the fire was to dash to the workrooms and warn the hands.

After warning the workers of their peril he rushed to the chemical operating room where the deadliest of high explosive chemicals are being constantly experimented with, and told his assistants there to fly at once for their lives.

Next Mr. Angel sent his calls for help over the telephone wires.

His “S.O.S.” was not merely for the fire brigade's assistance, but also for ambulances to be sent.

The possibility of escape was still open to him after all this, but the brave chemist saw that another duty to perform.

He made his way to that part of the building where the flames were spreading fast, and it was while he was doing his utmost in helping to stay their progress that the explosion came, and with it the end.

Many lives were saved by his heroic sacrifice.

## OXFORD'S ‘LITTLE ANGEL.’

By a Former Pupul.

In this appalling explosion Oxford has lost one of her most able tutors.

Mr. Angel was for several years a lecturer in chemistry at Christ Church and Brasenose College, and was director of the Dr. Lees Laboratory at the former college.

Andrea Angel was a man of much personal charm, and as a tutor he was the essence of conscientious accuracy.

I was with him for three years, and in all that time I have never known him flounder in an point, so extensive and minute was his chemical knowledge.

When war broke out and the need for chemists arose Mr. Angel—or “Little Angel,” as we used to call him affectionately—at once volunteered his services for the country.



Salvaging bedding for their new home in the area of the great explosion. The photograph was taken yesterday.—(*Daily Mirror*) photograph.)



# GOVERNMENT CALL FOR ALL MEN UNDER 31 TO SERVE

## Germans Claim Capture of a Sereth Bridgehead and Rumanian Town.

## BRITISH TIGHTENING THEIR GRIP ON KUT.

## Enemy Trenches Raided Near Loos—Dugouts Full of Germans Bombed and Many Casualties Inflicted.

The chief features of yesterday's news were:—

**KUT.**—The British are getting closer to Kut. The right bank of the Tigris from Kut down stream has been cleared of the enemy, and progress has been made against the foe trenches on the same bank south-west of Kut.

**WESTERN FRONT.**—Sir Douglas Haig reports successful raids on German positions near Loos and Neuve Chapelle.

**MEN UNDER 31 FOR THE ARMY.**—The Government announce that men under 31 will be of more value to the country serving with the colours than they would be in civil employment. Tribunals have been notified to this effect.

**THE GERMAN RAIDER.**—Owing to the sinking of ships by the German commerce raider Brazilian commerce has been affected and the Brazilian Government has therefore sent a battleship to cruise off the coast.

**RUMANIA.**—Berlin claims the capture of a Sereth bridgehead as well as the town of Nanesti. A Russian storming attack "back across the Sereth bridges" resulted, the foe say, in "severe losses" for our Ally.

## KUT-EL-AMARA MENACED BY BRITISH TROOPS.

Right Bank of Tigris from Town Down Stream Cleared of Turks.

## PROGRESS TO SOUTH-WEST.

BRITISH OFFICIAL.

With reference to the communiqué issued on the 15th inst., the enemy has now been driven from the small strip on the right bank of the Tigris in the bend north-east of Kut-el-Amara.

The whole trench system on a front of 2,500 yards and to a depth of 1,100 yards is now in our hands, and the right bank of the Tigris from Kut-el-Amara down stream has been cleared of the enemy.

Further progress has been made against the enemy's trenches on the right bank south-west of Kut-el-Amara.

It was on December 15 that the offensive by Sir F. S. Maude's troops began, and at that time they were some distance from Kut.

## NEUTRAL SHIP'S FATE AT HANDS OF UBOAT.

Food Stores Seized Before She was Sunk by Torpedo.

**SANTONA, Sunday.**—Survivors of the Swedish (?) steamer Gaera (?) who have reached here report that when the vessel was thirty miles from Santona a submarine appeared.

A German officer came on board, examined

## SEVEN STEAMERS SUNK.

Lloyd's reported yesterday the following vessels sunk:—

Ngilsea Court (British).  
Parahya (Spanish).  
Esperanza (Norwegian), 4,478 tons.  
Gaia (Norwegian), 1,022 tons.  
Marietta di Glogio (Norwegian) 988 tons.  
Asp (Norwegian).  
Cetus (British trawler).

the ship's papers and had all the ship's food stores transferred to the submarine.

He then had bombs placed in the ship's hold, but finally the vessel was torpedoed.

Before disappearing the German officer handed the captain a written certificate of the sinking of the Gaera with the time at which the vessel went down.—Reuter.

## IN THE CERNA BEND.

GERMAN OFFICIAL.

**Macedonian Front.**—In the bend of the Cerna, east of Paralevo, a German reconnoitering detachment carried a successful enterprise.—Admiralty per Wireless Press.

## RAIDS NEAR LOOS AND NEUVE CHAPELLE.

Dug-Outs Full of Germans Bombed and Destroyed—Enemy's Lines Entered.

BRITISH OFFICIAL.

**GENERAL HEADQUARTERS, Sunday.**  
9.15 P.M.—We carried out a successful daylight raid this morning against the enemy's trenches south-east of Loos.

Dug-outs full of Germans were bombed and destroyed and many casualties inflicted on the enemy at small cost to ourselves. We secured some prisoners.

The enemy's lines were also entered by us last night north of Neuve Chapelle.

The enemy's artillery has been active at intervals during the day in the neighbourhood of Rancourt, Beaucourt and Serre, and also in the Ypres sector.

We effectively bombarded the enemy's positions in the St. Pierre Vaast Wood and in the neighbourhood of Gommecourt, Arras and Armentières.

GERMAN OFFICIAL.

(Admiralty per Wireless Press.)

**Western Theatre of War.**—Apart from more lively artillery duels and successful patrol enterprises by our troops, the day passed without any events of importance.

## GUNS VERY BUSY ON THE SOMME AND MEUSE.

FRENCH OFFICIAL.

**North Communiqué.**—North of the Somme our batteries caught under fire enemy troops on the march in the region of Mont St. Quentin.

"On the right bank of the Meuse there was great artillery activity on either side in the sectors of Vaucrauville, Chambrettes and the Caurieres Wood."

North of Banc de Sart, after a lively bombardment, we carried out a successful coup de main against the German lines towards Senones.

Afternoon Communiqué.—In the Lassigny region a German attempt on one of our trenches in the direction of Canny-sur-Metz, was easily repulsed. The enemy left some prisoners in our hands.

On the right bank of the Meuse there was intermittent activity on the part of the artillery on either side, and patrol encounters in the Bois des Caurieres.—Reuter.

## BRAZIL AND THE MENACE OF GERMAN RAIDER.

Owing to the continual sinking of ships, which affect the commerce of Brazil, the Brazilian Government, says a Reuter message, have dispatched a coast battleship to cruise off the northern coast.

According to a Rio de Janeiro message, the German Atlantic raider treated the captured crews very badly, keeping them without food for two days.

**Buenos Aires, Saturday.**—A United Press dispatch states that the Hudson Maru arrived at Recife, with a German crew. It is not known whether she will be allowed to leave or will be interned.

Arrivals at Recife say that the raider Vineta was of the Moewe type.—Exchange.



The kitten is always ready for a game.

## GERMANS CLAIM TAKING A SERETH BRIDGEHEAD.

"Russians Caught by Batteries and Suffer Severe Losses."

GERMAN OFFICIAL.

**Army Group of Archduke Joseph.**—In the Eastern Carpathians a planned enemy attack against the Putna Valley road was prevented from developing by our efficient artillery fire. Minor Russian advances were repulsed.

**Army Group of von Mackensen.**—On January 19, in addition to Nanesti, the whole of the bridgehead, which was still tenaciously defended by the Russians, fell into our hands. The Rumanian Art Markians and West Prussians stormed several hostile lines, supported by strongly entrenched points d'appui. The town itself was taken in a violent house-to-house struggle.

The Russians, storming bridges, were caught under the fire of our outflanking batteries and machine-guns, suffering severe losses. One officer, 555 rank and file, two machine-guns and four mine-throwers fell into our hands.—Admiralty per Wireless Press.

RUSSIAN OFFICIAL.

**Rumanian Front.**—No events of importance have occurred. At some points successful reconnoitering operations by our scouts and Rumanian scouts took place.—Admiralty per Wireless Press.

## NO RUSSIAN PEACE UNTIL FINAL VICTORY.

**PETERSBURG, Sunday.**—The Tsar has addressed the following rescript to Prince Golitzin, the Prime Minister:—

"Having entrusted to you the responsible post of President of the Council of Ministers, I deem it opportune to point out to you the pressing problems the solution of which should be the main object of the Government's attention."

"At the present moment, when the tide of the great war has turned, all the thoughts of all Russians, without distinction of nationality or class, are directed towards the valiant and glorious defenders of our country, who, with keen expectation, are awaiting the decisive encounter with the enemy."

"In complete solidarity with our faithful Allies, not entertaining any thought of a conclusion of peace until final victory has been obtained, I firmly believe that the Russian people, supporting the burden of war with self-denial, will accomplish their duty to the end, not stopping at any sacrifice."

## SHELLING NEAR KOVEL.

RUSSIAN OFFICIAL.

**Western Front.**—In the direction of Kovel, in the rear, west and north-west of Velitsk, are two heavily bombarded enemy sectors.

South of Stanislawoff our scouts attacked a party of the enemy while they were reconnoitering in the region of the village of Zagwos. After a hand-to-hand struggle some of the Austrians were bayoneted and the rest captured.—Reuter.

GERMAN OFFICIAL.

**Army Group of Prince Leopold of Bavaria.**—East of Baranovitchi German detachments, forcing their way forward, entered Russian trenches and brought back seventeen prisoners.—Admiralty per Wireless Press.

## FIGHT AT IRISH MEETING.

A violent scene occurred yesterday at a Town Tenants' League meeting at Limerick. Mr. T. Landon, a member of Parliament, being attacked by a number of interrupters, and having to be taken to the infirmary as the result of rough usage.

The meeting was held in favour of a 20 per cent. reduction in house rents. A strong party, some armed with heavy sticks, rushed the platform and attacked Mr. Landon. He protected himself with a chair, but this was quickly smashed, and the attacking party drove him across the platform.

Mr. Landon was struck on the head, kicked in the stomach, and was left cut and bleeding.

## EVERY MAN UNDER 31 TO GO.

Government Give Tribunals Orders What To Do.

## MEN WHO ARE EXEMPT.

"Every man under thirty-one years of age, who is fit for general service (Category A) or for garrison service abroad (Category B) will be, after January 31, of more value to the country with the forces than he would be in civil employment."

"Tribunals will not be justified in exempting beyond January 31 . . . any man under thirty-one years of age who is fit for general service or for garrison abroad, unless he comes within certain specified exceptions."

This important decision has been come to by the Government "after a careful survey of the situation," and all Tribunals have been circularised to that effect.

In other words, the Government have decided that every fit man under thirty-one (with certain exceptions) is of more value to the country with the forces than he would be in civil employment.

The following are the exceptions to the general rule:—

### EXEMPTED OCCUPATIONS.

(1) If the man belongs to one of the occupations specified in Appendix A in the list of certified occupations—skilled men urgently required for munitions or other work of national importance.

(2) If the man, with due regard to age limits, is in a certified occupation.

(3) If the man is engaged on work of high national importance and possesses special qualifications for that work which make him manifestly irreplaceable.

"The policy here announced," says the official notice, "does not apply to agriculture."

The special decision mentioned above with regard to men under thirty-one years of age should not make the Tribunals less strict in deciding applications in respect of men above that age.

The demand for men at all military ages who are fit for general service, or for garrison duty abroad, is so great that exemption is not justified unless supported on very strong grounds."

## FRENCH PRISONERS IN THE FIRING LINE.

Flimsy German Pretext for Committing Another Barbarous Deed.

The French Government have exposed another instance of German "righteousness."

Alleging that German prisoners of war had been quartered in the firing zone, Berlin (says Reuter) threatened to place French prisoners in the zone of fire unless the French Government removed the Germans to a certain distance, within a time limit.

Then followed the announcement that the Germans, not having received the reply from the French Government, the threat had been enforced.

According to a semi-official French statement on the subject, the German prisoners were only provisionally quartered in the zone of the French armies; the French Government accepted the German proposal, and a Note to that effect was sent within the time limit.

## FIFTEEN DAYS' GRACE FOR KING TINO'S ARMY.

Allies' Ministers Reported To Have Returned to Athens.

**ATHENS, Saturday.**—The military representatives of the Entente Powers to-day informed the Greek General Staff that a period of fifteen days will be allowed to the latter in which to transfer all the guns and machine guns of the Greek Army into the Peloponnese.

The stipulated period will date as from to-day.—Reuter.

**ATHENS, Saturday.**—The removal of the troops in Peloponnese began to-day with the transfer of the First Regiment of Field Artillery.

**Rome, Sunday.**—A telegram from Athens to the Tribuna states that the Allies' Ministers have returned to Athens.—Central News.

## SWISS MOBILISATION.

The Swiss mobilisation, (says the Exchange) will be finished by Wednesday at latest. Everything is calm in Berne, and it is believed there is no fear of a German invasion.



# WHITELEYS WINTER SALE

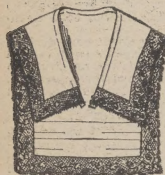
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THIS WEEK



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Sale Price 2/6



Hemstitched Linen Handkerchiefs.  
1 1/2 and 2 1/2 in. hem.  
Sale Prices  
6 for 1/11 & 6 for 2/11



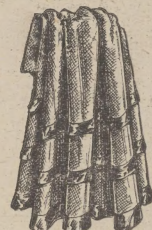
Fine Ivory Net and Valenciennes Lace Collar, trimmed wide tucks.  
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Becoming close-fitting Hat of hand-made fancy Plait. In Nigger, Bottle, Biege, Navy, and Black.  
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## ARTIST SOLDIER PAINTS A TANK.



Corporal D. Sherrin, of the Buffs, now a patient in hospital at Ladywell, painting a picture of a "tank" in action; which has been purchased by a well-known firm of art publishers for reproduction purposes. Earlier in the war Sherrin designed a number of clever recruiting posters, including the advertisement "for a British Continental tour, personally conducted by the Buffs."—(Daily Mirror photograph.)

### "LOUISE."



Mme. Miriam Licette, to play the title rôle in Charpentier's modern opera, "Louise," which will be given for the first time in English in London at the Aldwych Theatre to-day.—(T. E. Howe.)

### AT THE SAVOY.



Miss Vera Clark, the clever little dancer in "Alice in Wonderland." The season has been extended until Saturday.

### NEWS PORTRAITS.

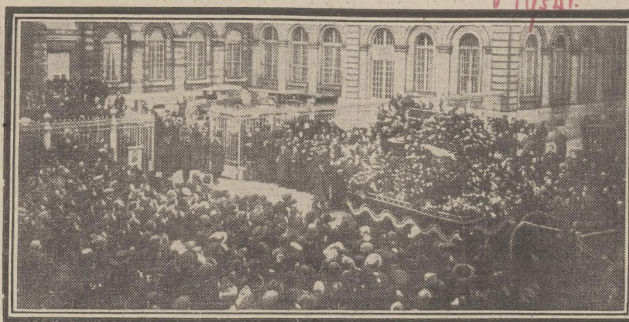


This soldier is asked to write to Miss A. Warwick, 5, Abingdon-court, Kensington.



Co-Sgt-Maj. R. P. W. White, R.E., of Rushon, awarded the D.C.M.

## FUNERAL OF A FRENCH AIRMAN IN PARIS.



Immense crowds were present at the funeral of the famous pilot Bedora, who was killed while on duty at a time when a Zeppelin raid was rumoured. The photograph shows the hearse, covered with wreaths, leaving for the cemetery.

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152, FENCHURCH ST., E.C. (opposite Rood Lane)  
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# Daily Mirror

MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 1917.

## 'SERVING THEIR COUNTRY.'

JUST as people were getting ready for their dinners on Friday night, there sounded over London an ugly thud of explosion, which to each of us seemed to come exactly from his own back garden or doorstep or street.

The rumours flew about, immediately, from those people who never weary of asserting as true what they only guess or imagine. Then, as no second boom came, and there was obviously no Zeppelin, the hypothesis of fire at a munition factory was adopted and turned out to be right.

But the bare explanation gives no image, to those who have not seen the stricken district, of the loss and damage involved by a moment's misfortune in this kind. We are not "playing with fire" nowadays, but utilising fiery forces infinitely more powerful, when set loose, than their human makers and inventors. In thousands of such buildings as the one blown in a second to nothing on Friday night, patient people toil day and night all over England. We hear of their ceaseless labours, and by a series of arranged newspaper pilgrimages, the authorities have done well to make the nature of the work roughly known to the public. We hear, too, of minor casualties, of the daily dangers involved. But only when an accident like this makes it clear to us do we sufficiently realise the nature of the terror faced; only now do we feel as we ought full gratitude to those who face it.

The death of Mr. Angel, the chief chemist of the factory, is one worthy to be put beside those already recorded of brave men at the front; not less than they was he a soldier in the good fight. Some time ago, in a place where a bomb killed a party of toiling people in a great yard in Scotland, we read the inscription of a tablet put up by the directors. There were the names brightly engraved, then—"who died here serving their country." Each man involved in the bigger disaster may have the same words written concerning him: and Mr. Angel, by his fine example and sacrifice, will be remembered amongst the first.

For the rest, while we lament the loss of life and the extent of the calamity, we must also think it a matter of surprise, not that this or another accident comes, but that so few come, seeing how enormous a space is now given to this perilous work with explosives never known till this most dreadful of wars made them a necessary part of our defence. Friday's fire began, it seems, as a fire simply, and involved the explosion afterwards; but in a hundred factories it will suffice for a careless act, a foolish girl's forgetfulness, a moment's inattention, to produce a similar confusion and collapse. That on the whole so few of these places have suffered shows how patient an effort of surveillance and precaution has presided over the great work of making our munition supply equal to the never-forsaken needs of our armies in the fighting line. W. M.

## ON LEAVING ENGLAND.

In what torn ship soever I embark,  
That ship shall be my emblem of my ark:  
What sea soever swallow me, that flood  
Shall be to me an emblem of my blood.  
Though thou with clouds of anger do disguise  
Thy face, yet through that mask I know those eyes,  
Which, though they turn away sometimes,  
They never will despise.

I sacrifice this island unto thee,  
And ah! whom I love here, and who love me;  
When I have put this flood 'twixt them and me,  
Put thou my blood between my sins and me.  
As the tree's sap doth seek the root below,  
In winter, in my winter now I go,  
Where none but thou wilt know my soul.  
Of true love, I may know. JOHN DODGIE.

Volume X. of "Daily Mirror Reflections" can now be obtained at all bookstalls. It contains more than a hundred of the best cartoons published on this page during the past year, and costs only 6d. net.

## THE HOPE OF GERMANY'S COLLAPSE.

### WHY I BELIEVE SHE WILL FIGHT TO THE END.

By AUSTIN HARRISON  
(Editor of the "English Review").

THERE is one thing a man should never do in war—prophesy: for those who do so venture are generally made to look pretty complete donkeys. And yet I want to be among our numerous prophets, perhaps the most emphatic of whom is Mr. Wells with his foreshadowing of that in November the Germans would be "squealing"—and in June there would be peace.

I want to prophesy for a definite reason, but I only want to prophesy on an aspect of the enemy, namely, his fighting spirit, which is a matter I have studied for eighteen years.

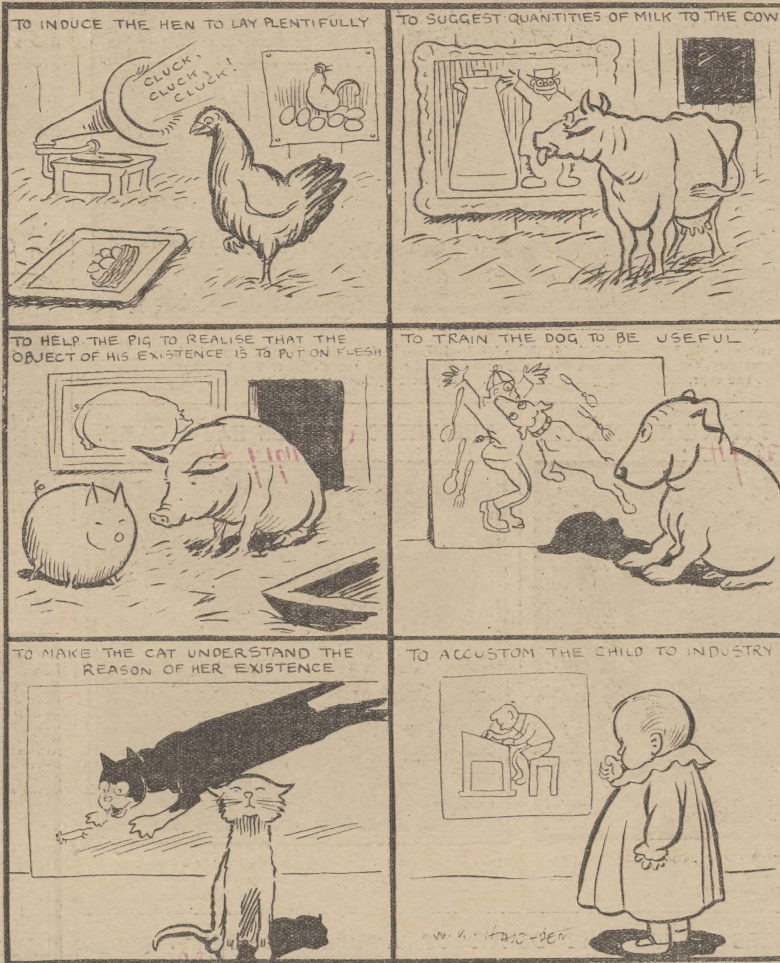
will fight. They will not be ready for our terms until they recognise the superiority of our violence, until we beat them—that is, break up their line, chase them out of France, and threaten them with annihilation.

The German view is that they will be able to hold the western front strategically, so that when the autumn rains begin the line, if dented and broken, will still be intact as a whole, thus ending with a fourth summer stagnation and with prospects which they reckon they can turn to advantage across a round table with the able assistance of Mr. Wilson.

#### A DESPERATE DEFENCE?

And it is my conviction that sooner than give in and admit that they cannot fight us into an arranged peace they will go on, even if forced on to their second line, and out of those on to the Meuse line, and even on to the Rhine—provided in the process they are not overtaken by disaster. In short,

## HOW TO STIMULATE PRODUCTION.



Our gossip columns recently recorded a case of "auto-suggestion" tried upon hens, with the result that they laid eggs with a better will than ever. Why not try this form of "suggestion" more frequently, in order to get all animals and infants to "do their bit"?—(By W. K. Haselden.)

largely on the spot, and indeed feel I know intimately enough to judge with authority.

First, my reason. We have read the Allies' reply to President Wilson; it is stiff and we must all recognise that it is a non-compromise declaration; in short, a most explicit document, amounting to a restatement of the map of Europe and a reaffirmation of civilisation.

Now, I find men saying that the Germans will throw up the sponge on seeing our determination; or, as they put it, will accept any terms rather than risk a severe military defeat this summer in France and on the other fronts.

I hold this view to be a disastrous miscalculation. About actual military operations, likelihoods or possibilities, I say nothing; what I wish to put forward is my deliberate opinion as to the moral of Germany faced with the terrific issue of 1917. It is this—the Germans

I believe that Germany will go down fighting—that she is preparing to put up a desperate defence this year we know; but more than that, I believe that they will endure the extremest limits of suffering through want of food, etc., rather than haul down the flag on terms which would cripple them as a military power and dissolve the Austrian alliance, and the grand Eastern dream of a Pan-Germanic Federation stretching from Hamburg to Bagdad.

Such is my prophecy. It means that only by force will the German spirit and German aims be broken and aligned with those of Western civilisation; and that this consummation will only be brought about by sheer military victory on our part.

I think we ought to realise this now. Because a super-optimism is afloat, which, as an extremist view, is a danger. Extremes

## MEN FOR THE LAND.

### COMMENTS ON THE PROBLEM OF OUR FOOD SUPPLIES.

#### "C3 AND A1."

WITH reference to your corresponding letter on the C3 men, there is one thing he is wrong about, and that is in calling them "C3 conscripts."

As his term is used in a general way, I conclude that he thinks all these men are conscripts, but there are many who are not.

I, for one, am an attested man, and married also—a member of the now much-talked-about C3 brigade, who are apparently going to annoy the farmers and feed the pigs with the chickens' food, plough the land for a few days, and then "crock up" with rheumatism, lumbago, etc., for a few days, while the poor land is, or will be, lying idle for the want of another C3 man to carry on for another few days, and so on to the end of the chapter! The whole thing is

a mistake, and it quite puzzles me how the land is to be worked for all it's worth by C3 men in order that the food production of this country may be brought up to anything like the needed amount. C3.

Margate.

MANY of the men who are now classed as only fit for sedentary work have in the past done more for the British Empire probably than Mr. Francis Seaford has, and it is therefore an insult to place such men under a stigma, as he has done. Many of these have in the past worked under tropical suns and Arctic cold. Yet these men are "labeled" as being physical wrecks! FRONTIERSMAN.

#### THE LADY LAWYER.

I FELT rather ashamed of my countrymen when I read that an overwhelming majority had, at a meeting voted against the admission of women to the Bar.

In Heaven's name, why?

It seems a pity that the Englishman always allows the Frenchman to get ahead of him.

The barristers are only doing what the medical profession once did, and now we are only too grateful for the services that the women doctors and women surgeons have given to their country. Let us be rid of this sex jealousy.

If a woman barrister is incompetent she will get no briefs, and there's an end of it; and if she is a success, why, all the better for the law.

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#### IN MY GARDEN.

JAN. 21.—The country garden is full of interest even in January. Carefully protected by small frames, the Christmas roses are blooming splendidly and prove most useful for cutting.

Violets in sheltered frames are also putting forth a few flowers. Let the soil between the plants be stirred every few weeks, and it is important to remove all dead and decaying foliage. E. F. T.

lead to extremes. There may be disappointment this year which, if we have a wet summer, for instance, may prove indecisive; and then there is the danger of a deflation.

For that deflation the Germans will fight this year. It is their hope and chance. If by untold efforts and sacrifices they can end the summer with a whole front they will fight diplomatically like demons to provoke negotiations, and their Christmas box of 1917 will be a double-trilled cracker thrown at us with all manner of blarney in the expectation that some of us will pull it.

#### A THOUGHT FOR TO-DAY.

No man should ever be ashamed to own he has been in the wrong, which is but saying in other words that he is wiser to-day than he was yesterday.—Pope.



BRIDE'S GUARD OF HONOUR IN OVERALLS. <sup>19340</sup>

Captain William Buchanan Bryans, R.F.C., and his bride (Miss Mildred Ramsbotham), leaving St. James' Church, Hyde Park, on Saturday. Mrs. Bryans worked in a munition factory for nine months, and some of her old colleagues, wearing their overalls and caps, formed the guard of honour. They held up nosegays as she passed.

BEAT MAN IN PLOUGHING MATCH. <sup>19337H</sup>

Miss Elsie Jackson, aged nineteen, who recently defeated Mr. Tom Wilkinson in a ploughing match for £10 a side in Lincolnshire over difficult ground.

THE TRENCH KITTEN HAS A GAME. <sup>19114 D</sup>

The soldiers have all sorts of pets, and the photograph shows two trench kittens. They have a jolly time, for there is always someone to play with them.

HIGHLANDERS MOURN THE DEATH OF A BELOVED CHIEF. <sup>1382</sup>

The Duke of Atholl, whose death occurred on Saturday, marching at the head of the Atholl Highlanders. With him is the son and heir, Brigadier-General the Marquis of Tullibardine, M.P.

FOR THE SPRING: A F <sup>Large Labels</sup>

Rose-coloured straw hat with a pom-pom of small curled feathers.

CHUMS PROMOTED. <sup>19340</sup>

Private Robert Bloomfield and Private Archie Summers (bareheaded), two young Northumberland miners, who have been granted commissions for gallantry.

A summer frock of crepe and plain has

WOUNDED GRATEFUL TO PRIMA DONNA. <sup>19114 D</sup>

Miss Felice Lyne accepts a bouquet after singing to the wounded at the Central Hall, Westminster. She was "discovered" by Mr. O. Hammerstein when he opened the London Opera House.



# TY BUT SIMPLE FROCK



A spring hat in navy satin with a blue and green straw bow.

## 'GIRL' BECOMES SEAMAN.



Seaman Manders, R.N.D., a woman impersonator, dressed as a girl and in uniform. Since joining up he has acted continuously for the wounded and at charity concerts.

## DERELICT A DANGER TO SHIPPING.



The derelict Brazilian ship Nepthis being salvaged by a United States coastguard cutter. She had remained afloat partially submerged, and had become a danger to shipping.

# MR. N. CHAMBERLAIN, NATIONAL DENTIST



Mr. Neville Chamberlain addressing his first meeting since his appointment as Director-General of National Service. It was held in the Central Hall, Birmingham, on Saturday. "I have got to be the nation's dentist," he said. "There are a certain number of teeth to be extracted, and I have got to take them with as little inconvenience to the victim as I can."

## A "TRENCH RAIDER" CAPTURED.



In the wooded country of the Meuse fox cubs wander into the trenches in search of food, and are thus captured by the poilus. They soon become pets.

## WEDDING OF SCOTTISH M.C.



Captain D. Watson (Highland Light Infantry), who has won the M.C., and his bride, Miss Winifred Reynolds. They were married at Hampstead on Saturday.

## ESCAPED FROM KIEL FLYING THE DANISH FLAG.



The crew of the German commerce raider Moewe, believed to be the vessel which has been "flying the Jolly Roger" in the Atlantic. She is believed to have left Kiel under the Danish flag.



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Mr. J. O'Grady, M.P., a notable figure at the Labour Conference at Manchester.



Lord Portarlington, who inspected the explosion area with the Home Secretary.

#### Not a Zepp Raid.

THE explosion in the East of London formed almost the sole topic of discussion everywhere yesterday. Everybody was eager to give his and her experiences and impressions of the "big bang." I find that people in Central London generally thought that an air raid had been attempted, attributing the glare in the sky to the destruction of one or more Zepps.

#### "No Admission."

The many thousands of people who flocked to the East of London yesterday, despite the bitterly cold east wind, to "see what they could see" found that they could see very little. The police, soldiers and special constables were abundant, and permitted nobody to enter the area closed by the explosion which was destroyed in the great explosion. A friend of Mr. Angel told me that until a little over a year ago, when he became assistant manager at the factory, Mr. Angel was a science tutor at Oxford. His home was in the university city.

#### The Heroic Chief Chemist.

I heard a fine tribute paid at the Ministry of Munitions to the bravery of Mr. Andrea Angel, the heroic chief chemist of the factory which was destroyed in the great explosion. A friend of Mr. Angel told me that until a little over a year ago, when he became assistant manager at the factory, Mr. Angel was a science tutor at Oxford. His home was in the university city.

#### His Wife's Fortunate Absence.

His wife, I hear, was fortunate not to have shared her husband's fate. She, too, held an important post at the factory, having come down from Oxford only a month or so ago to become superintendent of the women workers there. They had a cottage within the factory grounds, but on the night of the disaster, by a strange chance, Mrs. Angel was away visiting some friends.

#### A Brave Woman.

She was back again, however, in the East End a few hours after the explosion, and without knowing the fate of her husband at once threw herself into the work of succouring the women and children who had been her special care at the works.

#### Noble Work Night and Day.

I know that the brave woman did not rest throughout the whole night and the whole of the next day, although she was on the verge of collapse many times. She bore up heroically even after learning of Mr. Angel's death, and continued to comfort the unfortunates. On Saturday the doctors insisted that she should take a rest.

#### Whistles for the Wounded.

A "Tommy" home on leave showed me, among other trophies, a small tin whistle which he took from a Boche. He says that most of the Huns carry these, so that, if wounded, they can whistle for assistance.

#### Captain Wilson's Captivity.

I heard from Hull recently that Captain Stanley Wilson, M.P. for Holderness, who is a prisoner of the Austrians, was soon to be repatriated by an exchange of officer-prisoners. Now I learn with regret that the news was premature. His friends are hopeful that he will soon be exchanged, despite present difficulties. He will get a great reception in the House when he returns, for he was one of the cheeriest spirits there.

#### Greek Treachery?

Captain Wilson and Colonel Napier, you will remember, were taken on a Greek ship by an Austrian submarine soon after they sailed from the Piræus. It was suspected at the time that

a spy was at the bottom of the capture. Now that the world knows of the treachery of the pro-German Greek cabal in Athens, the suspicion doesn't lack confirmation. What a story Captain Wilson will have to tell when he returns!

# TO-DAY'S GOSSIP

News and Views About Men, Women, and Affairs in General

#### Infant Welfare.

I hear that one of the first of the new Bills to be introduced in the coming session will be Lord Rhondra's measure for the protection of infant life. A Local Government Board man tells me that the President takes a deep interest in this subject, and that he has devoted his attention whole-heartedly to every phase of it, with the result that his Bill will be a very far-reaching one.

#### The First Step.

A lot of people were surprised when the great coal-owner went to the Local Government Board, as they had associated him with a purely trade department; but I happen to know that he has made a very close study of many aspects of the social problem, and I think you will find that his new Bill is but the first step in an ambitious programme he would like to carry out.

#### The Conference Chairman.

Mr. G. J. Wardle, who has the none too enviable job of presiding over this week's big Labour conference, is one of the soundest of the Labour leaders, although he does not come very much into the limelight. All through he has been a whole-hearted supporter of the war, and has stood up to the attacks of the cranks more than once. I am expecting some uncompromising thrusts in his presidential speech to-morrow.

#### What It Might Mean.

I heard some politicians discussing yesterday what the results might be in the unlikely event of an adverse vote at the conference of the Labour leaders, although he does not come very much into the limelight. All through he has been a whole-hearted supporter of the war, and has stood up to the attacks of the cranks more than once. I am expecting some uncompromising thrusts in his presidential speech to-morrow.

#### No Bayonets in Downing-street.

I asked an American who arrived a week ago what impressed him most in London. "I was struck by the fact," he replied, "that in the midst of this titanic war I found that the Prime Minister's house in Downing-street was without a military guard. I imagine the United States were at war you would find bayonets in the White House bristling with bayonets."

#### A Panto's Finale.

As a happy sequel to "Babes in the Wood," which terminated at a South London theatre on Saturday night, they are playing this week a drama entitled "Home Once More."

#### Shakespeare for Soldiers.

The Princess Louise will present memorial copies of Shakespeare's works to disabled soldiers at St. Dunstan's Hostel to-morrow. Sir Arthur Pearson, who, I hear, has returned from the Continent, will be present.

#### The Dangerous American.

Meeting Mr. James Carew, Miss Ellen Terry's husband, I asked how he liked his big part in "Under Cover" at the Strand. "Fine," he said, "but if I play many more of these brutal parts I'll lose all my friends. I had been invited to dinner one Sunday by some friends who have a daughter of eleven. She had seen me in one of my 'brutal American' parts. When she heard I was coming to dinner she said to her father: 'Daddy, don't you think you'd better get your pistol out before the big American man comes?' S'pose he got cross about something!"

#### Pom Fashions.

Another war scandal! On Saturday in Bond-street I saw a toy Pom wearing tiny diamond earrings!

#### A Motor-Omnibus Mark Tapley.

It seems to me that there should be some special recognition for the cheerful omnibus conductor. If there were, I think there is a Mark Tapley on the Willesden-London Bridge route who would be marked out for special distinction. Nothing upsets him, and he spreads contentment among the grumpiest load of passengers on the wettest of mornings.

#### Simplicity and Economy.

A woman famous for her taste in dress who believes in practising rigid economy said to me that well-to-do women should dress simply. The Queen, she commented, has always set a notable example. Mary Duchess of Abercorn, the Duchess of Sutherland, Lady Ilchester, Lady Ormonde and others are encouraging simplicity in dress.

#### The War Blouse.

A friend whose brother is in the Motor Transport wears miniature motor-wheel buttons on a blouse, she tells me, has a Rumanian shoulder yoke.

#### Munition Girls at a Wedding.

We are all familiar with the wedding guard of honour composed of officers or soldiers and with pictures of brides leaving the church beneath a canopy of swords. Miss Ramsbotham, who was married on Saturday to Captain Bryans, had a guard of honour of munition girls wearing their blue overalls and caps. The bride had been a munition worker. A woman who attended the wedding told me the innovation was a huge success.

#### Military Brolies.

A lady just from Paris informs me that the latest umbrella fashion over there is to have the handle rounded off with the head of a famous general. She showed me a Joffre specimen, and Nivelle and Foch gamps are, she declared, equally popular.

#### The Shakespearean Exhibition.

I looked in on the wonderful Shakespearean Exhibition at the Grafton Galleries on Saturday. I was impressed by the large number of men in khaki who were studying the pictures and other memorabilia of the dramatist. A Canadian sergeant said: "This show is great for me. I've been an amateur Shakespearean actor for years, and the portraits of the famous actors and the ancient programmes fairly fascinate me. I'm coming again."

#### German Trophies To Be Seen.

Mr. Arthur Croxton informs me that the War Office has loaned a captured German Fokker aeroplane and a German field gun to be used in Mr. Louis Parker's spectacle, "Follow the Drum," which is being staged at the Coliseum for the Kuchener Fund matinee to-morrow. Here's realism for you!

#### General Smuts a Lawyer.

It is not generally known that General Smuts, who made such a gallant record in driving the Huns out of British East Africa, is a lawyer as well as a soldier. He has been Attorney-General in the Transvaal. I dare say the London Bar will make an opportunity to honour the general when he comes to London to attend the Imperial Conference.



Mrs. Addison, wife of the Munitions Minister, who is doing relief work.

#### What the Children Said.

I was told one or two rather amusing tales of the effect upon comfortable middle-class children who heard the "big bang" on Friday night. One of them is a little girl in a family who dote upon her and protect her from all fears or knowledge of Zeppelin bombs and such unpleasantness.

#### "Only Die Once!"

However, I have always suspected she knows more than she reveals; and this suspicion was proved sound on Friday. "Was that a bomb, daddy?" she asked as the family all sat up and trembled. "Oh, no, dear, it's only a door banging." "What nonsense, daddy; you needn't be afraid. We can only die once!" Worthy of Casablanca!

#### Airmen Who Dig.

All sorts of people are becoming tillers of the soil. One of the most interesting groups I know is a party of men of the Royal Naval Air Service. Permission has been given to them to utilise a part of the land of their station for gardens. The men devote their spare time to the work.

#### Cash at the Dressmaker's.

When royalty does not mind paying cash, why should women object to "pay on the nail?" A woman who was at a fashionable dressmaker's and saw a notice that no credit was allowed asked if royal clients waived this rule, and was told that they observed it strictly. THE RAMBLER.

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KENSINGTON LONDON W

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THE end of the season finds us left with some 70 or 80 Model Coats and Skirts which we do not intend to carry over to our Spring Stock. The majority are our usual 5 and 6-guinea suits, but several are priced as high as 10 or 12 guineas. Most of the Models are in **Fine Gab Cord or Soft Fine Serge**, but several are of **Velveteen or Moire or Taffeta Silk, Grey Suitings, Tweed, Velour de Laine, &c.** The colours are principally Navy's, Greys and Putty. One lovely model (a Model by Braunstein, Paris) is in Copper Beech colour Velour, with very heavy stitches of Self Floss Silk (was 14 guineas). Another by Fidler, Paris, is in Stone Colour Tricotine (was 12 guineas). Another by Simon, Paris, is in Grey Gab Cord (was 9 guineas). No two are alike, and practically all are of this Season's making.

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A feature of our early Spring collection is a wonderful Suit in a fine and most exquisitely woven All-Wool Covert Coating, a full back belted coat, lined silk, with two deep military pockets, and new straight line skirt with two pockets to match. Properly made-tailored and finished as only a good West End tailor does finish his work. In all sizes from 0.8 down to S.S.W. If ordered now

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There are too many to describe, but the usual prices were 30/- to 60/-.

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DECORATED AT THE FRONT.



Pinning a medal on the chest of a British soldier within sound of the guns in France.—(Official photograph.)

GLASGOW EVENTS—ART STUDENTS REHEARSING.



The Anderson Ambulance Association entertaining wounded soldiers at their headquarters



The Sad Queen and Connla the Harper.



The King of Tartary at a rehearsal.

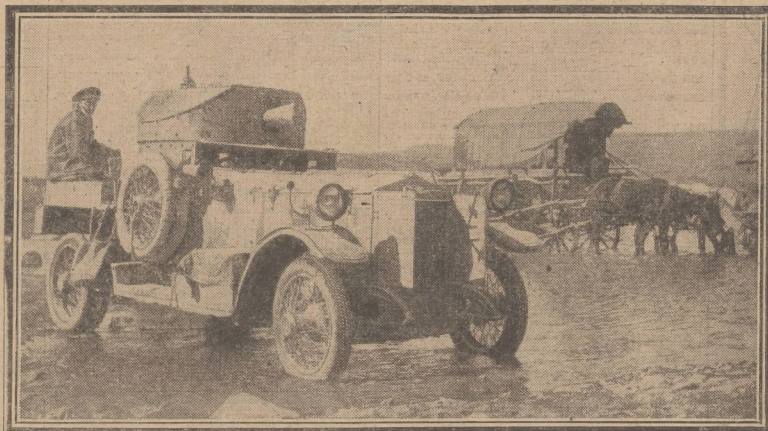
"A Tale of Cuchulain," the old Celtic hero, which will be given by the pupils of the Glasgow School of Art on Wednesday in aid of the local war funds. Mr. Parry Guna will tell the tale, while the story is acted in dumb show.—(Daily Mirror photographs.)

## AN ENGAGEMENT.



Iris, daughter of Commander Sir Trevor Dawson, R.N., the explosives expert, who is engaged to Lieutenant-Colonel J. Micklem, D.S.O., M.C. She was a debutante in 1913.

## BRITISH ARMOURD CAR SECTION STILL GOING STRONG.



The British armoured car division is still doing most valuable work in the Caucasus and elsewhere, says a message just received. The photograph shows one of the cars crossing a river where a bridge has been destroyed. The horses of the Russian transport wagon have stopped for a drink.

## GALLANT CLERIC.



The Rev. Joan K. Hecher, Archdeacon of Ross, awarded a silver medal for his gallant conduct at the wreck of the steamship Alandra. He formerly went in for yacht racing.